

Immunization Registry Progress in Michigan

Immunization Coverage in Michigan

According to National Immunization Survey (NIS) data for July 1998 to June 1999, the percentage of children 19-35 months of age who were up-to-date with 4 doses of diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, 3 doses of poliomyelitis, and 1 dose of measles, mumps, rubella vaccine was 76%.

Facts about Michigan Childhood Immunization Registry (MCIR)

- MCIR collects and manages immunization data for the entire state of Michigan.
- The targeted age group for MCIR is birth through preschool (4 - 6 years of age), although it maintains records up to 20 years of age.
- Currently, entities which link with the registry include:
 - Vital Records Department;
 - Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Nutrition Program;
 - Public Health Clinic Patient Management/Billing System;
 - Private Medical Practice Management/Billing Systems;
 - Managed Care Organizations; and
 - Other county, regional or state registries.
- As of June 21, 1999, 71% of all providers were enrolled in the registry.

Other unique qualities about MCIR

- Michigan has received funding of \$2 million annually for the past three years to support the development and implementation of the MCIR.
- The registry covers all children across the state, irrespective of whether they receive vaccines through public health departments or from private providers.
- Physicians and clinics have direct real-time access to the MCIR through either a modem, direct line, or a fax-back system.
- An optional Vaccine Inventory Module has been developed to assist providers with management of their vaccine inventory and will generate the reports needed for documentation of the Vaccines For Children program.
- Legislation was passed in Michigan to establish and to set the rules governing the operation and use of the registry.
- Physicians have the ability to run profile reports using the MCIR to determine their own immunization rates to better target activities.
- Immunization recall notices are being phased in allowing Regions to generate notices which are sent to children who are not up-to-date with their immunizations.

Other registry plans, accomplishments, and successes

- More than 1.7 million children currently are included in the MCIR.
- More than 14.3 million doses have been entered.

- Approximately 500 provider log-ins to the registry every day.
- Provider participation is increasing at a rate of about 5% per month.
- Provider profile reports are being used by providers to measure immunization levels within their practice and therefore take steps to increase those immunization levels.
- Local health departments now have the ability to do population based immunization level assessments and target outreach to areas of need.
- Plans are in place to develop a WEB interface to the MCIR. This will allow easier access to the MCIR for providers and reduce the communication costs.
- Most enrollment of providers in the MCIR has been accomplished by face to face interactions with provider offices.
- Implementation of the MCIR using a regional approach has expedited provider enrollment and better met the needs of the provider.
- The MCIR has very detailed assessment algorithms programmed in which assist providers in the assessment and due dates of a child's immunization record. Doses of vaccine administered inappropriately are assessed as invalid doses.

Some challenges and barriers affecting registry progress

The reluctance of billing systems to develop an interface with the MCIR has been a real problem for the private providers. The billing systems contain much of the same information that is needed by the MCIR, but without this interface, the providers must double enter the information (once into to billing system and once into the MCIR). For many providers, this is a burden that they are very reluctant to take on.

Current political or legislative factors affecting registry activity

There has been considerable political support for the MCIR from both the legislature and the Governor and First Lady. Mrs. Engler has taken a particularly active and supportive role in efforts to educate parents about the benefits of immunization.

Current registry funding

MCIR currently is funded through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the State of Michigan, and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. We have received Medicaid match monies in the past to support the MCIR.

Helpful immunization and immunization registry contacts in Michigan

Registry Contact Person:

Name:	Robert Swanson, M.P.H.
Title:	Assessment and Local Support Manager
Address:	Division of Immunization Michigan Department of Community Health PO Box 30195 Lansing, MI 48909
Phone:	517.335.8159
Fax:	517.335.9855
Email:	swansonr@state.mi.us

There are a number of active organizations around the state supporting immunizations, including

- Michigan Advisory Committee on Immunizations. This group provides advise and policy recommendations to the Michigan Department of Community Health on immunization issues.
- Alliance for Immunization in Michigan, a coalition based in southeast Michigan whose membership primarily is physicians, nurses and public health staff.
- Most counties have immunization coalitions whose membership includes local physicians and nurses, health departments staff, volunteer organizations, hospitals, etc.
- Regional MCIR Governance Boards, which direct the activities of the regional MCIR